

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 006728

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TO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

1. BASED ON YOUR MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY, YOU SHOULD
SEE FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO
CONVEY THE FOLLOWING POINTS FROM THE SECRETARY:

(A) AS PROMISED IN THE VERY USEFUL MEETING IN PARIS, WE
HAVE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED THE PROSPECT OF CONCLUDING
THE NEW AGREEMENT AS A TREATY. WE HAVE DECIDED THAT THIS
WOULD BE POSSIBLE ON THE CONDITION THAT WE COULD BE
REASONABLY SURE OF SENATE APPROVAL BY TWO-THIRDS
MAJORITY. OUR FINAL JUDGMENT MUST AWAIT THE RETURN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 006728

OF CONGRESS ON JANUARY 19, SO THAT WE CAN COMPLETE OUR

CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS. HOWEVER, WE ARE ALSO CONSIDERING THE JOINT RESOLUTION FORM, WHICH HAS EQUAL FORCE IN LAW AND ALSO INVOLVES THE PARTICIPATION OF THE HOUSE, THE CHAMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR ORIGINATING MONEY BILLS.

(B) WE HAVE ALSO REVIEWED THE EXTENT OF OUR POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT OUR BILATERAL COOPERATION. THE COMBINED TOTAL OF MILITARY AND NON-MILITARY AID WE HAVE PROPOSED APPROACHES \$800 MILLION IN GUARANTEED CREDITS AND GRANTS, AND THIS FIGURE DOES NOT REFLECT SHIP LOANS OR AIRCRAFT EXCHANGES. IN ADDITION, THE U.S. EXPORT-IMPORT BANK HAS RECENTLY APPROVED OR IS CONSIDERING LOANS AMOUNTING TO SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS FOR SPANISH NUCLEAR POWER PROJECTS. OUR CONTINUED BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP COULD THEREFORE BE DESCRIBED AS PROVIDING SPAIN WITH VARIOUS BENEFITS, INCLUDING LOANS AND GRANTS AMOUNTING TO WELL OVER A BILLION DOLLARS. HOWEVER, THE U.S. EXECUTIVE BRANCH MUST PRESENT AND JUSTIFY THESE VARIOUS LOANS AND GRANTS FOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE DETECTED CONSIDERABLE CONGRESSIONAL SYMPATHY FOR STRENGTHENED RELATIONS WITH SPAIN, WE HAVE DETERMINED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POLITIC TO PRESENT THE NEW AGREEMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH PROPOSED ASSISTANCE GREATER THAN THE NEARLY \$800 MILLION ALREADY OFFERED, BEARING IN MIND ALSO DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

(C) WITH RESPECT TO STRENGTHENING THE DRAFT AGREEMENT ON THE U.S.-SPANISH COUNCIL IN ITS ROLE IN COORDINATION BETWEEN THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP AND THE ATLANTIC SECURITY SYSTEM, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE SPANISH WILL SHORTLY BE PRESENTING THEIR OWN DRAFT. WE SHALL GIVE THE SPANISH PROPOSAL THE MOST URGENT AND SERIOUS CONSIDERATION AND DO NOT ANTICIPATE DIFFICULTY IN MEETING THEIR DESIRES.

(D) WITH THE ABOVE CLARIFICATIONS, WE ASSUME THAT BOTH SIDES ARE NOW PREPARED TO CONCLUDE THESE NEGOTIATIONS. WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 006728

ON HOW TO PROCEED:

1. (PRESUMABLY THE SPANISH DRAFT WILL HAVE BEEN RECEIVED ON JANUARY 10). THE NEW SPANISH PROPOSALS WILL BE GIVEN THOROUGH AND URGENT CONSIDERATION. AMBASSADOR STABLER HAS FULL AUTHORITY TO PURSUE AND CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS ON AT LEAST THE FIRST FOUR SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTS. WE ARE INTERESTED IN

COMPLETING THIS PROCESS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IN PARALLEL WITH OUR DISCUSSIONS OF THESE TEXTS, WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF FORCES AND RELATED ISSUES, ALSO ON A PRIORITY BASIS, AND BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MOST EXPEDIENT FOR THESE TALKS TO TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON. WE INTEND TO APPROACH THE LATTER QUESTION TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE ON THE BASIS OF OUR ARRANGEMENTS WITH NATO COUNTRIES.

2. WHEN NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FIRST FOUR SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENTS ARE UNDERWAY, WE PROPOSE THAT AMBASSADOR ROVIRA COME TO WASHINGTON WITH A SMALL GROUP TO COMPLETE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE REMAINING TEXTS AND ANY OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST. WE HOPE THAT FINAL DISCUSSIONS COULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN THIS MONTH. WE WOULD ALSO HOPE THAT THE SOFA NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE COMPLETED THIS MONTH, BUT WOULD CONSIDER LEAVING THEM FOR COMPLETION AFTER SIGNATURE OF THE MAIN AGREEMENTS IF MINOR ISSUES REMAIN UNSETTLED.

(E) WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS IS A VERY TIGHT SCHEDULE, BUT GIVEN THE FACT THAT THESE ISSUES HAVE BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION FOR MORE THAN A YEAR AND GIVEN ALSO THE EXPRESSED DESIRE OF BOTH SIDES TO CONSOLIDATE THE FOUNDATION FOR THEIR CONTINUED COOPERATION, WE BELIEVE IT TO BE ACHIEVABLE. KISSINGER

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